

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (currently amended) A device for implanting in the vasculature or cardiovascular system for treating a disease, comprising a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood, said device comprising:
 - a) a ring-shaped holding structure-biodegradable-matrix-material-capable-of dissolving-upon-contact-with-blood, and
 - b) one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material, and, a plurality of fibers comprising at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the matrix material of the fiber, said plurality of fibers being attached at one end of each fiber to the holding structure and the remaining portion of each fiber floating or lying in the bloodstream,
 - e) at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves,

said one or more particles comprising iron oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium alloy, titanium oxide (TiO_2), magnesium oxide, palladium oxide, palladium-cobalt, bioceramic, bioglass, resin, cement, hydroxyapatite, calcium sulfate, aluminum oxide, tricalcium phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloy, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc-phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactide)poly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide-poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactide)poly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(alkylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine,

triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, poly(ethylene oxide), poly-ortho ester, poly-(amino acid), polycyanoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly(amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, or any combination thereof, and said device designed solely for drug delivery having a ring-like structure, and constructed to degrade gradually until complete degradation as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves.

2. (cancelled).
3. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a polymeric material, a metallic material, or a combination thereof.
4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, ~~polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactide poly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactide poly)~~, polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(alkylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly-ortho ester, poly(amino acid), polycyanoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly(amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, ~~hydroxapatite~~, fibrin, graphite, or any combination thereof.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a naturally occurring protein, a synthetic protein, a ~~genetically engineered protein polymer, or any a~~ combination thereof.
6. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a shape-memory effect material.
7. (cancelled).
8. (cancelled).
9. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug comprising a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, paclitaxel, adenosine, spironolactone, alteplase, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, celecoxib, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidogrel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, flecainide, furosemide, losartan, lovastatin, metoprolol, minoxidil, nifedipine, nimodipine, pravastatin, procainamide, propranolol, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.
10. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug comprising an anti-inflammatory agent.
11. (cancelled).
12. (cancelled).
13. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a drug releasing agent.
14. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material further comprising:
 - a) at least one drug, and,

- b) ~~at least one depot for storing said the at least one drug, said wherein the at least one depot open opening and releasing said at least one drug as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.~~
15. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising Zyn-Linkers.
16. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a binder.
17. (previously amended) A device according to claim 16, said binder comprising a synthetic polymer, dextran, any sugar based substance, starch, chitosan, agarose, albumin, or any combination thereof.
18. (currently amended) A device according to claim ~~3~~1, said one or more particles having a diameter in the range of from about 40 nanometers to about 1 micrometer.
19. (previously amended) A device for implanting in the vasculature or cardiovascularity for treating a disease, comprising:
- a) a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood,
 - b) one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material, and,
 - c) at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves,
- said one or more particles being capable of changing the contrast in a radiological imaging system, and
- said device having a ring-like structure, and constructed to degrade gradually until complete degradation as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves.
20. (previously amended) A device according to claim 19, said one or more particles comprising iron oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO_2), magnesiumoxide, palladiumoxide, palladiumcobalt, ^{90}Y , ^{133}Xe , $^{81\text{m}}\text{Kr}$, ^{111}In , $^{133\text{m}}\text{In}$, ^{201}Th , or any combination thereof.
21. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via mechanical expansion and clamping.

22. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via glue.
23. (cancelled).
24. (cancelled).
25. (cancelled).
26. (cancelled).
27. (cancelled).
28. (cancelled).
29. (cancelled).
30. (cancelled).
31. (new) A device according to claim 1, comprising one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material and at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves, said one or more particles comprising iron oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO_2), magnesium oxide, palladium oxide, palladiumcobalt, bioceramic, bioglass, cement, calcium sulfate, aluminum oxide, tricalcium phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloy, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, poly(ethylene oxide), poly ortho

ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, fibrin, graphite, or any combination thereof.

32. (new) A device according to claim 1, said plurality of fibers having elastic, twisted, unwoven, woven, or tapered construction.